

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
2011 South Clark Place  
Customer Window, Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION  
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03  
Arlington, VA 2220

**PATENT**  
Case Docket No. 80505.22  
Date: April 12, 2004

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application of:

Inventor(s): **Brian R. VICICH and Edward MESSER**  
For: **ELECTRICAL CONNECTOR HAVING A GROUND PLANE WITH INDEPENDENTLY CONFIGURABLE CONTACTS**

This is a ☒ CONTINUING ☐ DIVISIONAL ☐ CONTINUATION-IN-PART of prior application Serial No. 09/863,960 Filed May 23, 2001,, currently pending.


**Enclosed are:**

- 22 Pages of Specification
- 12 Sheet(s) of drawing (☒ formal ☐ informal)
- ☒ Copy of Declaration and Power of Attorney from prior application 09/863,960 (for continuing and divisionals).
- ☒ An assignment to SAMTEC, Inc., 520 Park East Boulevard, New Albany, IN 47151-1147 was filed and recorded in the prior application on May 23, 2001, Reel/Frame 011848/0226.
- ☐ A certified copy of \_\_\_\_\_ from which priority is claimed in the subject case pursuant to Rule 55b and 35 U.S.C. 119. was filed in prior application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☒ Copy of Revocation of Power of Attorney, Power of Attorney and Statement Under 37 CFR 3.73(b) filed in prior application
- ☒ Change of Correspondence Address
- ☒ Incorporation by Reference - The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied as indicated above, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.
- ☐ DELETION OF INVENTOR(S) - Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) in the prior application.
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement, Form PTO 1449.
- ☐ Preliminary Amendment
- ☒ General authorization/request to Petition for Extensions of Time
- ☒ Return Postcard

FOR:	NO. FILED	NO. EXTRA	SMALL ENTITY RATE	SMALL ENTITY FEE		OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY RATE	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY FEE
BASIC FEE				\$385.00	OR		\$770.00
TOTAL CLAIMS	19	-0-	X 9	\$	OR	X 18	\$-0-
INDEP CLAIMS	3	-0-	X 40	\$	OR	X 86	\$-0-
<input type="checkbox"/> MULTIPLE DEP CLAIMS PRESENTED			X + 130	\$	OR	+ 264	\$
			TOTAL =			TOTAL:	\$770.00

- ☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. 50-1353 the amount of \$
- ☒ Credit Card Payment Form in the amount of \$770.00 to cover the filing fee is enclosed.
- ☐ Credit Card Payment Form for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ covering the Assignment Recordation Fee is enclosed.
- ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.
- ☒ Any additional filing fees required under 37 CFR 1.16.
- ☒ Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17.
- ☐ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees during the pendency of this application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.
- ☐ Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17.
- ☐ The issue fee set in 37 CFR 1.18 at or before mailing of the Notice of Allowance, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.311(b).
- ☐ Any filing fees under CFR 1.16 for presentation or extra claims.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Joseph R. Keating  
Registration No. 37,368

KEATING & BENNETT LLP  
10400 Eaton Place, Suite 312  
Fairfax, VA 22030  
(703) 385-5200

17497 U.S. PTO  
10/822341  
041204

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: **Brian R. VICICH and Edward MESSER**  
For: **ELECTRICAL CONNECTOR HAVING A GROUND PLANE WITH  
INDEPENDENTLY CONFIGURABLE CONTACTS**

New Continuation Application of Parent Serial No. 09/863, Filed May 23, 2001, currently pending.

Filing Date: April 12, 2004

---

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

Mail Stop Patent Applications  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

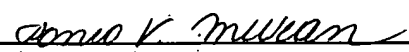
Date of Deposit: April 12, 2004

**VIA U.S. EXPRESS MAIL EL629609372US**

I hereby certify that an application for patent, including:

22 pages of Specification (which includes claims and a one-page Abstract); 12 Sheets of formal Drawings; a copy of the executed Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney from prior application 09/863,960; a copy of Revocation of Power of Attorney or Authorization of Agent, Power of Attorney of Authorization of Agent, and Statement Under 37 CFR 3.73(b) from prior application 09/863,960; a Credit Card Payment Form (PTO-2038) authorizing a charge to my credit card in the amount of \$770.00 to cover the filing fee; Transmittal Letter; General Authorization/Request to Petition for Extensions of Time; a Preliminary Amendment; an Information Disclosure Statement; and Return Postcard are being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop Patent Application, Arlington, VA 22202.

Date of Deposit: April 12, 2004

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sonia V. McVean

VIA U.S. EXPRESS MAIL EL629609372US  
PATENT  
80505.22

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Brian VICICH and Edward MESSER Serial No.: Currently unknown Filing Date: Concurrently herewith For: ELECTRICAL CONNECTOR HAVING A GROUND PLANE WITH INDEPENDENTLY CONFIGURABLE CONTACTS	Parent Appln. Serial No.: 09/863,960 Parent Filing Date: May 23, 2001
--	--

**GENERAL AUTHORIZATION/REQUEST TO PETITION FOR EXTENSIONS OF TIME**

Mail Stop Patent Applications  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

With reference to the subject application, and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, Applicants hereby authorize and request the Commissioner to treat any correspondence requiring a petition for extension of time as containing such a request therefor for the appropriate length of time. This general authorization is effective during the pendency of this application, including any division or continuing application therefrom.

General Authorization/Request  
To Petition for Extensions of Time  
April 12, 2004  
Page 2 of 2

Where no check is received by the Commissioner, you are hereby authorized to charge payment of the requisite petition fees, or charge any additional fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353. A duplicate copy of this general authorization is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 12, 2004

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Attorneys for Applicant(s)

Joseph R. Keating  
Registration No. 37,368

Christopher A. Bennett  
Registration No. 46,710

**KEATING & BENNETT LLP**  
10400 Eaton Place, Suite 312  
Fairfax, VA 22030  
Telephone: (703) 385-5200